

Office of Communications 1100 Ohio Drive, SW Washington, DC 20242

202-619-7222 phone www.nps.gov

National Park Service Media Advisory

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Bill Line/Toni Braxton 202-619-7400

National Park Service Kicks-Off Healthy Parks Healthy People Greater Washington Area Initiative

Washington, D.C. - The National Park Service (NPS) will kick off the Healthy Parks Healthy People Greater Washington Area initiative with the DC Park Prescriptions and Kids in Park's TRACK Trail programs. A local Washington doctor will write the first DC Park prescription, and third graders from Neval Thomas Elementary School will be among the first to walk the National Mall and Memorial Parks' TRACK Trail. A Connect Trails to Parks program grant is making TRACK Trails a reality in each of the 13 Greater Washington National Parks. A TRACK Trail is a self-guided brochure-led hiking trail that encourages kids and families to become physically active in our parks.

- WHAT: Healthy Parks Healthy People, Kick-off in the Greater Washington Area.
- WHEN: 11:00 a.m., Thursday, September 20, 2012.
- **WHERE:** Lincoln Memorial plaza, located between the Lincoln Memorial and the Reflecting Pool.
- WHO: Robert Vogel, Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks; Kevin Brandt, Superintendent, C&O Canal National Historical Park; Dr. Robert Zarr, Physician, past president of the DC Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

BACKGROUND:

Healthy Parks Healthy People Greater Washington Area is a NPS initiative to promote and encourage people to enjoy parks and public lands to the fullest for physical and mental health, healing and social wellbeing. Within the Greater Washington area, the NPS is working with state and local parks, as well as business innovators, healthcare leaders, scientists, foundations and advocacy organizations to foster the health-related role that parks can and do play in our society.

Since 2004, the NPS, National Capital Region (NCR) has been working on health related projects to connect healthcare providers and their patients with parks and public lands to expand and strengthen the fight against obesity and reconnect youth and families with their natural environment. The NCR is now working with multiple health partners to increase Greater Washington area residents' connection to parks to improve their health and well-being.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Limited satellite and microwave truck parking will be available on a first come, first served basis on the east curb lane of Daniel French Drive. There will be photo **and** interview opportunities after the event. An audio mult box will be provided. www.nps.gov